

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09859 241318Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 103426

R 241205Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9859

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IN, CE

SUBJ: INDIA-SRI LANKA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

1. INDIA, AND WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS REPORTS ALSO SRI LANKA, RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE INDIA-SRI LANKA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT JULY 23. PLOTTING THE COORDINATES LISTED IN THE AGREEMENT, WE FIND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES APPEAR TO HAVE SIMPLY DRAWN A MEDIAN LINE IN PALK BAY, FROM ADAMS BRIDGE TO THE PALK STRAIT. THE FORMERLY DISPUTED ISLAND OF KACHCHATIVU FALLS ON THE SRI LANKA SIDE.

2. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR "SOVEREIGNTY AND EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OVER THE WATERS, THE ISLANDS, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF" FALLING ON EACH SIDE OF THE LINE. INDIAN FISHERMEN AND PILGRIMS GET ACCESS WITHOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO KACHCHATIVU, AND INDIAN AND CEYLONESE VESSELS "WILL ENJOY IN EACH OTHER'S WATERS SUCH RIGHTS AS THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY ENJOYED THEREIN." EXPLOITATION OF ANY PETROLEUM OR OTHER MINERAL DEPOSITS STRADDLING THE BOUNDARY WILL BE DECIDED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

3. THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, IN PLACING THE AGREEMENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09859 241318Z

BEFORE PARLIAMENT JULY 23, EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL NATURE

OF THE AGREEMENT. "IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SEE THIS AGREEMENT AS A VICTORY NKR ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE GAINED AS A RESULT OF THE AGREEMENT.....A POTENTIAL MAJOR IRRITANT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...HAS NOW BEEN REMOVED...."

4. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE MILITANT NATIONALIST JANA SANGH, THE SOCIALISTS AND THE DMK, WHICH GOVERNS THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU, ALL CLAMORED AGAINST THE AGREEMENT WHEN IT WAS PLACED BEFORE THEM. THEY REITERATED THE INDIAN CLAIM TO KACHCHATIVU AND CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CEDE A PORTION OF INDIAN TERRITORY SIMPLY BY EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT REPLY BUT PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE TO DO SO IN TIME.

5. COMMENT: THE JANA SANGH HAS CHALLENGED THE AGREEMENT IN THE COURTS OF BOTH DELHI AND MADRAS AND NOW WILL SEEK TO CHALLENGE IT IN PARLIAMENT. THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MEANTIME HAS ITS AGREEMENT AND APPEARS WILLING TO WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE OPPOSITION CAN DO. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE VOTES IN PARLIAMENT TO LEGALIZE THE AGREEMENT THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, IF THE COURTS DECIDE THAT TO BE NECESSARY. KREISBERG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE09859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740200-0601
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740722/aaaaashr.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA-SRI LANKA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, IN, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005